

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and a method for reducing the temperature in a vertical-cavity surface-emitting laser (VCSEL) comprising of including at least one heat spreading layer adjacent to one of the reflecting surfaces in a VCSEL. The heat spreading layer has high thermal conductivity allowing heat to bypass said one of the reflecting surfaces, thereby efficiently removing the heat away from the device. This also reduces the serial resistance and the thermal impedance of the VCSEL.

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